

Applicant : Steven G. Hoek
Serial No. : 09/399,875
Page : 2

and when the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations. Both these conditions must be met.

Claims 2-14 depend from Claim 1 and, therefore, necessarily require all the particulars of the subcombination of Claim 1. Claims 2-14 are not subcombination claims vis-a vis Claim 1--they call for the combination of Claim 1 and the particulars of the specific dependent claim—by definition they are combination claims. Therefore, Claims 2-14 are not properly restrictable from Claim 1.

Claims 18-30 depend from Claim 17 and, therefore, necessarily require all the particulars of the subcombination of Claim 17. Claims 18-30 are not subcombination claims vis-a vis Claim 17--they call for the combination of Claim 17 and the particulars of the specific dependent claim—by definition they are combination claims. Therefore, Claims 18-30 are not properly restrictable from Claim 17.

Claims 33-44 depend from Claim 32 and, therefore, necessarily require all the particulars of the subcombination of Claim 32. Claims 33-44 are not subcombination claims vis-a vis Claim 32; instead, they call for the combination of Claim 1 and the particulars of the specific dependent claim—by definition they are combination claims. Therefore, Claims 33-44 are not properly restrictable from Claim 32.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Restriction requirement and withdrawal of at least the restrictions between: Claim 1 and its dependent claims, Claims 2-16: Claim 17 and its dependent claim, Claims 18-30: and Claim 32 and its dependent claims, Claims 33-44.

Applicant : Steven G. Hoek
Serial No. : 09/399,875
Page : 3

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN G. HOEK

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

January 12, 2000

Date

Catherine S. Collins
Catherine S. Collins
Registration No. 37 599
P.O. Box 888695
2851 Charlevoix Drive, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49588-8695
(616) 975-5500

CSC:lmsc